deficient with reference to Ministry's guidelines and had to be returned for modification or for submission of additional information/clarifications for further processing. Eleven estimates have been resubmitted by the State Government as per following details and balance two are awaited:

Month and Year of Receipt	No. of Estimates	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Crore)
April, 2003	1	3.63
September, 2003	1	14.77
October, 2003	6	25.97
November, 2003	3	30.68

(c) and (d) The State Government has been reminded for early sanction of the estimates during November, 2003.

(e) One estimate, received in April, 2003, has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3.47 crore and balance ten estimates received from September to November, 2003 are under process.

Road in Madhya Pradesh

329. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic condition of roads and National Highways in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) what steps have been taken to improve the condition of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the progress made in Madhya Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The total length of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh in 4734 kms. out of which 2559 kms. were newly declared during the period 1997 to 2000. These new National Highways were in poor condition at the time of declaration consisting mostly of single lane and some sections without any surfacing. This Ministry

is making all efforts for sanctioning works to improve the roads in phases depending upon the availability of funds and inter-se priority.

From 1999-2000 to 2002-2003 improvement works on 2200 kms. were sanctioned under Improvement of Riding Quality Programme, widening, strengthening, reconstruction of bridges, maintenance of Roads/ Bridges, Flood Damage Repair etc. out of which improvement of 1885 kms. have been completed. During 2003-2004, further 448 kms. are proposed to be taken up for improvement at a total cost of about Rs. 95 crore. A length of 635 km. of National Highways in the State is being developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). NHAI has so far invested about Rs. 120 crore to keep the roads traffic worthy.

Presently there are 85 Nos. of works in progress in Madhya Pradesh costing about Rs. 172 crore.

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral

†330. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 98 per cent of construction work of 5,846 km. long road project connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai would be completed by December, 2004 and the remaining work is proposed to be completed by December, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in the construction of the said project the cost has increased from its original estimated cost; and

(d) if so, to what extent, this has increased?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) It is expected that the work of four/six laning of 5,486 kms. of National Highways connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai i.e. the Golden Quadrilateral, would be substantially completed by December, 2004 and within the original approved cost.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.